



RESOLUTION #09-13

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CERTAIN
LOCAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

WHEREAS, the Virginia General Assembly will convene in early 2010 to consider important legislative matters of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the City Council to adopt a legislative program to present to its representatives in the General Assembly; and

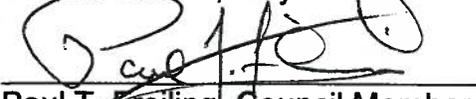
WHEREAS, the Council has carefully considered a legislative program, and believes that it is in the best interest of the citizens of Williamsburg.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Williamsburg, Virginia hereby endorses the attached 2010 Legislative Priorities List and urges consideration and passage as appropriate.

Adopted: October 8, 2009



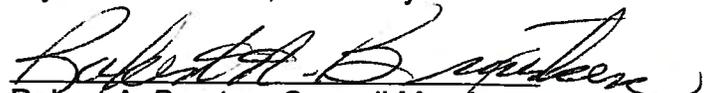
Jeanne Zeidler, Mayor



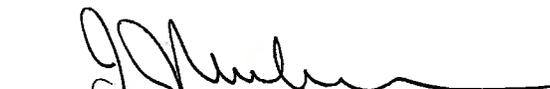
Paul T. Freiling, Council Member



Clyde A. Haulman, Vice-Mayor



Robert A. Braxton, Council Member



Judith N. Knudson, Council Member



2010 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES *City of Williamsburg*

★ Impact of General Assembly Actions on Williamsburg's Financial Wellbeing

- **Funding Reductions to City Government:** The City recognizes that continued deterioration of state revenue collections in FY10, and projection for FY11, will result in further reductions in state spending, including transfers to local government. As the General Assembly deals with this reality, the following are those areas of greatest financial importance to the City of Williamsburg:
 - a. Williamsburg/James City County Schools funding, particularly further cost shifting of teacher benefits to localities.
 - b. Social Services funding, which is needed to implement state and federal requirements through the Williamsburg Human Services Department.
 - c. Constitutional Officers support, both City and joint City/County Constitutional Officers, as long as local Constitutional Officers are mandated by the state.
 - d. Street and Highway Maintenance VDOT annual allocations to reimburse cities for road maintenance.
 - e. Public Safety support through local Law Enforcement 599 Block Grants for municipal police protection.
 - f. Regional Jail support for correction officer compensation.
 - g. State Health Department and Mental Health services, both at Eastern State Hospital and community based programs.
- **Restriction on Local Government Prerogatives:** Williamsburg opposes proposals previously introduced in the General Assembly to further restrict local revenue prerogatives, especially:
 - a. Manipulation on real estate assessments to reflect something other than market value.
 - b. Caps on tax rates, or the rate of revenue growth.

- c. Reductions of Business, Professional and Occupational (BPOL) revenue.
- d. Restrictions on discretion of City Council to use existing local revenues as it sees fit.
- **Computation of Tax on Internet Sale of Hotel Rooms:** Williamsburg urges the General Assembly to require internet travel reservation companies to collect occupancy tax based on the price paid by the end user, not the price paid by intermediaries or brokers.
- **BPOL Application:** BPOL tax statues currently exclude rentals from non-owner occupied business and residential properties. These are business activities, and reason dictates that they should be subject to BPOL taxation. We wish to discuss this issue with our legislators before making a specific legislative recommendation.

★ **Priorities for State Revenue and Expenditures with Critical Local Area Impacts**

- **Tourism Promotion:** Williamsburg urges the General Assembly to use a greater portion of the tourism revenues it collects to promote Virginia as a destination.
- **Transportation Funding:** The City supports General Assembly action to direct or allow tolling major river crossings in Hampton Roads, and to enact statewide gasoline tax increases and other forms of user fees dedicated to Virginia's transportation needs.
- **Passenger Rail on the Virginia Peninsula:** With the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulating enthusiasm for expanded passenger rail service across the country, the city requests improved reliability and frequency of passenger rail service between Richmond and Williamsburg and the lower Peninsula. Specifically, as a next step, Williamsburg supports rail improvements needed to move conventional speed trains with greater on time reliability through the Richmond area and on the Peninsula.
- **College of William and Mary:** While the impact on the City's budget is indirect, dwindling state funding for the College of William and Mary adversely affects the Williamsburg community significantly, as it does the performance of one of the premier universities in the world. Williamsburg urges no

further cuts.

★ **Other Legislative Priorities**

- **Appeals of Board of Zoning Appeals Cases:** Williamsburg endorses James City County's position that appeals of decisions by a BZA in Virginia should be adjudicated as "in re" matters that do not include the BZA itself as a party in the case.